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Docket No. 50277-1545 (OID 2000-078-01)

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Confirmation No.: 2375

JOHN LIGHTFOOT, et al.

Group Art Unit No.: 2161

Serial No.: 09/728,909

Examiner: Patrick J.D. Santos

Filed on: December 1, 2000

For: HIERARCHY-BASED SECURED DOCUMENT REPOSITORY

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.116**

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 18, 2004, the shortened statutory period for which runs until February 18, 2005.

No claims have been amended, added, or cancelled. Hence, Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

**TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

The Examiner is thanked for the telephonic interview of January 21, 2005.

Applicants' Attorneys Christian Nicholes and Brian Hickman, and Examiners Patrick Santos and Safet Metjahic, participated in the interview.

In the interview, the Applicants' Attorneys explained that even the combination of the cited references, U.S. Patent Number 5,878,415 by Olds ("Olds") and "Database

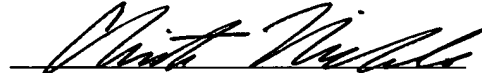
Systems: Principles, Design, & Implementation” by Ricardo (“Ricardo”), would not produce the method of Claim 1. The Applicants’ Attorneys explained that, even if it were possible to combine the cited references, the combination would appear to result in a hierarchy of the kind shown in Ricardo’s Figure 10.3, except with the inheritable access control lists of Olds associated with the “organizational” records/nodes of Ricardo. The Applicants’ Attorneys explained that such a result still lacked any documents associated with the “organizational” records/nodes, and that there did not appear to be any reason to associate access control lists with “organizational” records/nodes anyway, because organizational entities are not the kinds of things to which access typically is or needs to be controlled.

Examiner Santos said that a valid rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103 would require an additional reference that has not been made of record. Examiner Santos agreed to re-open prosecution of this matter, perform an additional search, and determine the patentability of Claim 1 based on the results of the additional search.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Christian A. Nicholes

Reg. No. 50,266

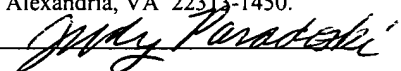
2055 Gateway Pl Ste 550  
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(408) 414-1080, ext. 224  
**Date: February 1, 2005**  
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

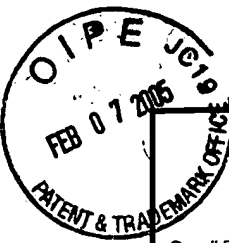
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on February 1, 2005

by





| NO FEE TRANSMITTAL<br>for FY 2005  |            | Complete if Known                        |                     |
|--|------------|--|---------------------|
| <i>Patent fees are subject to annual revision,<br/>Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement,<br/>otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.<br/>See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 AND 1.28</i>                                 |            | Application Number                       | 09/728,909          |
|  |            | Filing Date                              | December 1, 2000    |
|  |            | First Named Inventor                     | John LIGHTFOOT      |
|  |            | Examiner Name                            | Patrick J.D. Santos |
|  |            | Group/Art Unit                           | 2161                |
| TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT  | (\$ ) 0.00 | Attorney Docket No.                      | 50277-1545          |
| METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)  |            | FEE CALCULATION (continued)              |                     |
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Throughout the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees, including any required extension of time fees, and credit all overpayments to deposit account 50-1302. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed. |            | 3. ADDITIONAL FEES                       |                     |
| Deposit Account Number: 50-1302  |            | Large Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)        |                     |
| Deposit Account Name: Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker, LLP   |            | Small Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)        |                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |            | Fee Description                          |                     |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant(s) is entitled to small entity status.<br>See 37 CFR 1.27.   |            | Fee Paid                                 |                     |
| FEE CALCULATION  |            |  |                     |
| 1. BASIC FILING FEE  |            |  |                     |
| Large Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)  |            |  |                     |
| Small Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)  |            |  |                     |
| Fee Description  |            |  |                     |
| Fee Paid   |            |  |                     |
| 1011 300 2011 150 Utility filing fee   |            |  |                     |
| 1111 500 2111 250 Utility Search fee   |            |  |                     |
| 1311 200 2311 100 Utility Examination fee  |            |  |                     |
| 1081 250 2081 125 Utility Application Size Fee   |            |  |                     |
| 1005 200 2005 100 Provisional Application Fee  |            |  |                     |
| 1085 250 20835 125 Provisional Application Size Fee  |            |  |                     |
| SUBTOTAL (1)   |            | (\$ ) 0.00                               |                     |
| 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES  |            |  |                     |
| Highest Paid Claims    Extra Claims    Fee from Below    Fee Paid  |            |  |                     |
| Total Claims 24 -24= 0 X 50.00 = 0.00  |            |  |                     |
| Independent Claims 2 -2= 0 X 200.00 = 0.00   |            |  |                     |
| Multiple Dependent   |            |  |                     |
| **or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below   |            |  |                     |
| Large Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)  |            |  |                     |
| Small Entity Fee Code    Fee (\$)  |            |  |                     |
| Fee Description  |            |  |                     |
| 1202 50 2202 25 Claims in excess of 20   |            |  |                     |
| 1201 200 2201 100 Independent claims in excess of 3  |            |  |                     |
| 1203 360 2203 180 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid  |            |  |                     |
| 1204 200 2204 100 **Reissue independent claims over original patent  |            |  |                     |
| 1205 50 2205 25 **Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent  |            |  |                     |
| SUBTOTAL (2)   |            | (\$ ) 0.00                               |                     |
| SUBMITTED BY   |            | SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ ) 0.00                  |                     |
| Name (Print/Type) Christian A. Nicholes  |            | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 50,266 |                     |
| Signature  |            | Telephone (408) 414-1080                 |                     |
|  |            | Date February 1, 2005                    |                     |

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